



House of Representatives

File No. 667

General Assembly

February Session, 2004

(Reprint of File No. 221)

Substitute House Bill No. 5448
As Amended by House
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 26, 2004

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE POLICE CRUISERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2004*) Each vehicle purchased
2 for use primarily as a patrol car by a state police officer on or after
3 January 1, 2006, shall be equipped with a manufacturer-installed fire
4 suppression system. For purposes of this section, "fire suppression
5 system" means a system that is integrated into the structure and
6 electrical architecture of a vehicle and (1) uses sensors to measure post-
7 impact vehicle movement to determine the optimal time to deploy
8 chemicals designed to suppress the spread of fire or extinguish a fire
9 resulting from a high-speed rear-end collision, and (2) may be
10 activated both manually and automatically.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2004

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Department of Administrative Services; Public Safety, Dept.	GF - Cost	None	500,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill requires all state police patrol cars purchased on or after January 1, 2006 to be equipped with a fire suppression system.

The Ford Motor Company's Crown Victoria Police Interceptor is currently used as the state police patrol car. The cost to equip each Crown Victoria with a fire suppression system is about \$2,000 per vehicle.

It is anticipated that DAS will purchase 250 Crown Victoria's in 2006. Last year, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) purchased 236 Crown Victoria's for approximately \$4.6 million (an average vehicle cost of \$19,534). The purchase of 250 Crown Victoria's equipped with fire suppression systems will cost the state approximately \$5.3 million (an estimated average vehicle cost of \$21,534). This represents an increase in the purchase price of \$500,000.

DAS purchases the Crown Victoria's and then bills the Department of Public Safety (DPS) monthly over a three year term for the vehicles.

Depending upon the availability of funds, DPS replaces its patrol cars when they reach 80,000 - 90,000 miles. Generally, this results in about 200 - 250 cars per year or 20% of the department's patrol car fleet. Passage of the bill would result in significant cost to DPS since it

is expected that the initial purchase price due to the fire suppression system requirement would be reflected in the monthly lease payments.

House Amendment “A” strikes the original bill and its associated fiscal impact, thus becoming the bill.

OLR BILL ANALYSIS

sHB 5448 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING STATE POLICE CRUISERS**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires all state police patrol cars purchased on or after January 1, 2006 to be equipped with a manufacturer-installed fire-suppression system. It defines fire-suppression system as a system integrated into the vehicle's structure and electronic architecture that (1) uses sensors to measure post-impact vehicle movement to determine the best time to release chemicals designed to suppress the spread of fire or extinguish a fire from a high-speed, rear-end collision and (2) may be activated both manually and automatically.

*House Amendment "A" delays the fire-suppression system requirement by one year, adds the requirement that the manufacturer install the system, and defines fire-suppression system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2004

BACKGROUND***Legislative History***

On March 30, the House referred the bill (File 221) to the Public Safety Committee, which reported it favorably on April 7. On April 13, the House referred the bill to the Appropriations Committee, which reported it favorably on April 20.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12 Nay 2

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 21 Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 48 Nay 0